REMARKS / ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-4, and 7-16 remain in the application. Claims 5 and 6 have been cancelled. Claims 8-16 have been withdrawn as a result of an earlier restriction requirement.

Entry of the present Amendment and favorable reconsideration of Claims 1-4, and 7, as amended are respectfully requested.

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1-4 and 7 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by the reference to Beckman (U.S. Patent 4,552,544). In response to Applicants' arguments, the Examiner stated that the argument that the Beckman protuberances are not portions of the splines since they are adhesively secured to the surface of the splines was not persuasive. This conclusion was base don the fact that Applicants' claims did not recite any limitations specifically forbidding adhesive.

Further, the Examiner stated that the claims to not specifically claim that all portions of the splines hare homogenous with one another.

In a sincere attempt to properly define applicants' structure; distinguish the same from the prior art of record; and to incorporate the points raised by the Examiner, Applicants have amended Claims 1-4, and 7 by positively reciting the homogeneity of Applicants' article. More specifically, the claims as amended, now call for the splined component to be formed of formable meta; and the body, the splines, and the raised portions of the splines to be integral and homogenous.

Claim 7 has further been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Beckman (U.S. Patent 4,552,544) in view of Mangas (U.S. Patent 4,716,276). It is submitted that since Claim 7 has been amended to depend from Claim 1, as amended, the claim should be allowable along with Claim 1.

In conclusion, Applicants' attorney if appreciative of the Examiner's helpful comments, which have facilitated the instant amendment.

While it is submitted that the claims remaining in the application are in proper condition for allowance, should the Examiner deem that other language would be more appropriate, it is requested that a telephone interview be held with applicants' attorney in an endeavor to expedite the allowance of the application.

A timely Notice of Allowance is respectfully requested.

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